



22 THIS WEEK	30 NEXT WEEK	38 SOMETIME	48 NEVER
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In the old days, the Highwayman was a lone figure waiting at the roadside to rob the stagecoach. These days the position is reversed. It is the bus, the stagecoach's modern equivalent, which comes to rob the waiting figure - or more likely the dozens of you who have been waiting since God knows when

See HIGHWAY ROBBERY ON THE BUSES
pages 6-7

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NF the spectre of

The Hackney Committee Against Racism was founded five years ago by a group of Hackney people concerned about the effects in Hackney of the provocative racialist statements made about that time by Enoch Powell. In 1975 the constitution was amended, spelling out more clearly the necessity of spreading understanding amongst working people of the political nature of racism. The Committee felt one of its most important roles was to show that racism is a way of dividing working people against each other and preventing them confronting in a united way the many real problems facing them.

The problems which face people in Hackney such as unemployment, bad housing and poor public transport are not caused by coloured people, they are the result of the oppression of working people by big business and politicians in local and national government. London Transport is short staffed and yet there are over 1½ million people unemployed, the cuts in transport are the result of massive cutbacks in Government spending forced by private industry which wants bigger profits at the expense of the people.

Working people of all colours are forced to live in poor housing, yet according to Jack Jones, there

Hackney North & Stoke Newington Constituencies. They received 1044 votes in Hackney North, and in Hackney South 2544 votes - almost 10% of the ballot. This was one of their most successful performances in the country. They have already declared that in the next General Election, they will stand one of their "big men", John Tyndall, in Hackney South & Shoreditch. Tyndall is quoted as saying: "Hackney wanted me as their candidate, and Hackney invited me to stand."

Nationally the Front hope to put up 318 candidates so that

The demagogues like Enoch Powell, and the 'unbiased' press claim that their agitation isn't racialist, yet why do they never mention that three times as many immigrants come to Britain from Australia, Canada and New Zealand each year as come from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) put together. For the last six years the total figures are 288,700 against 109,900 according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

are 800,000 second or third homes belonging to the rich which are unoccupied at any time. Then there's unemployment - but the worst period of that was in the 1930s when there was little immigration. Glasgow has virtually no black population yet 40,000 are on the dole.

Meanwhile the racialist groups like the National Front play into the hands of those who want to prevent people getting together to solve their problems. Racism divides black against white and so diverts people from fighting those who profit from the working class.

NATIONAL FRONT

The National Front is becoming increasingly active in Hackney. In the General Election of October 1974, NF candidates stood in Hackney South & Shoreditch and in

they qualify for TV and radio time equal to that of the Liberals, and Hackney is obviously intended to play an important part in their policy to obtain maximum publicity for their ideas. With its increasing problems like shortage of housing and cuts in essential services, and with its large immigrant population, Hackney is a "good" area for the NF to whip up racial tensions.

Besides these General Election plans, the NF has shown an increase in its activities in local Hackney politics. There have been NF candidates in local council elections and NF members attempt to achieve positions in Tenants' Associations - presumably to practice the Front's policy of "House Britons first."

All these activities are part of their "respectable"



image, attempts to use the democratic organisations of a so-called free society to propagate their ideas and to attempt to create a mass movement. Other NF activities in Hackney expose their supporters as blatant and vicious racialists. When Sir Robert Mark, for example, opened his recruitment drive for black policemen, Hoxton residents had NF leaflets pushed through their doors with pictures of black-faced gorillas in police uniforms labelled "Coonstables". Many crudely racialist slogans are plastered around Hackney such as stickers on bus stops, and such slogans as "Wogs Out!" painted in two feet high letters around Hoxton. On Colville Estate black tenants have parcels of faeces and burning paraffin-soaked rags pushed through their letter boxes. Window smashing, racist abuse and physical attacks have also occurred. Some black women recently took out summonses against Derek Day - the local NF boss who lives in Hoxton - for assault. White women married to black men or showing any opposition to the aims and activities of the fascists, are also subject to vicious attacks. In Hoxton Market, the locals say that there are some stalls which will only sell vegetables to white customers.

COMMITTED AGAINST RACIALISM

It was largely in response to complaints of this nature from the various residents of Hoxton brave

Fascism haunts Hackney

enough to speak up, that the Committee resolved to demonstrate publicly its opposition to the racialism of fascists in Hoxton. Three or four hundred local trade unionists, members of left-wing groups and others, marched down Kingsland Road, past Hoxton Market and Derek Day's house and through the Hoxton estates, behind the banner: "TENANTS BLACK AND WHITE, UNITE AGAINST FASCISM!" The Committee felt that those immigrant families living in the area should be shown that other Hackney workers of all nationalities are prepared to support and defend them. There was an NF counter demonstration which was outnumbered. They contented themselves with shouting racialist abuse and slogans like "If they're black, send them back! If they're red, shoot them dead!" and throwing flour, eggs and even stones at the demonstrators.

If this is the most the NF can muster in Hackney, one might argue that perhaps the Committee is over-reacting. However, the NF (and other fascist parties, such as the National Party and the British Movement - both active in Hackney) may not have high numerical membership, but they are increasing their support amongst disaffected whites. People facing deteriorating conditions in Hackney are likely to be attracted by apparently easy solutions like the repatriation of their black neighbours.

NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR IMMIGRANTS?

The Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth says that 2% of the population owns 72% of all land values - only the poor working class areas are overcrowded.

Another fact often overlooked is that last year the overall population of Great Britain fell, in fact since at least 1961 more people have left the country than have come to live here. Between 1970 and 1975 for example 1,215,600 people came to Britain while 1,509,400 left. So there's no shortage of room for immigrants.

National Front arguments don't bear close analysis, but to oppressed white people, they offer simple answers and rapid action. Particularly in an area where there are few amenities and opportunities, it is not difficult



People of Hackney unite against Fascism.

for these arguments to be used to arouse people to the sort of thuggery carried out by white youths on the Colville Estate.

RACIST VIOLENCE

Window smashing is only the beginning. The national news in the last few weeks has shown how racialism leads to murder and large scale violence. Black and white people are thus prevented by racialism from working together to improve their conditions.

The struggle against big business and capitalism - the

a great many more if fascist propaganda is to be effectively countered. Ideas about the best tactics to adopt in the fight against fascism are needed, and help with the sheer hard work of duplicating, publicising and distributing is also needed. More representation from tenants' associations and immigrant groups is particularly needed. Also it is necessary for organisations like the Trade unions and the local Labour Parties to commit themselves as a whole to positive action against racialism. It is not enough for their support to be only due to the efforts of committed individuals in them.

General meetings of the Hackney Committee Against Racism are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Hackney Community Relations Council offices, 245 Mare Street, E.8, at 7.45pm.

FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM!

MAKE SURE YOUR ORGANISATION IS REPRESENTED!

Fascist boss Tyndall says that Hackney wants him... People's Press says: "NO WE DON'T!" "NF OUT!"

real culprits of the present economic crisis - is thereby weakened.

This is why the HCAR views the growth of fascism with such concern. It has members from many local organisations but it needs

Pollution: The Socialist Answer

Last month the North East London Branch of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association held its inaugural meeting at Hackney Town Hall,

S.E.R.A. is a fairly new member to the melting-pot of Labour Movement pressure groups. Although not exclusively Labour Party, it has a number of Tribune MPs among its members and has "consultative status" in the Party.

GROWTH AT ALL COST

Tony Emerson, S.E.R.A.'s Trades Union liaison officer, attended this meeting. He outlined S.E.R.A.'s industrial policy. It was the capitalist system, based on profits-at-any-price and growth-at-all-cost which was the root cause for the destruction of the environment and for exhausting the earth's natural resources, he said.

The terms of reference for a group such as S.E.R.A. are clearly very wide and the range of issues for possible campaigns is enormous. Recycling and transport were the two main ideas discussed at this meeting.

John Squires, a S.E.R.A. member from Leyton, had been involved in a pilot scheme for paper recycling run by Camden Council. However the scheme proved uneconomical and had been wound-up after about six months. He said that this had been in part due to a sharp fall in the price of paper shortly after the scheme had been launched.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN

Marilyn Gardin from South Hackney said that a campaign for better public transport and the need to get heavy freight off the roads would have far more impact. Tony Emerson made it clear that such a campaign would need to be linked with the demand for the displaced skills of car-workers and supportive industries to be

used in producing socially useful goods. The reformation of industry from profit-motivated, capital-intensive production to labour-intensive which is non-exploitative of the working people, non-wasteful of the environment and based on real need, goes to the very core of S.E.R.A. philosophy. This may sound pretty idealistic, but Tony would be the first to concede that if the traditional criteria of income and material possessions are used, this would mean drops in living standards.

NO SECTARIANISM

Ted Willmott, from South Hackney and a founder member of the organisation, pledged that S.E.R.A. would never be guilty of the sin of sectarianism. He said that while maintaining its unique perspective, it would seek to work closely with other community pressure groups, such as the Hackney Transport Action Group.

The North East London Branch's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6th. in Bethnal Green Library at 8pm. Mr. S. Falk will speak on Inner Urban decay, with special reference to the docklands.

CONTACT

If you would like to find out more about the organisation and this Branch, contact Jackie Hutson, 17 Mentmore Terrace, E8.



bad deal for backward kids

Within the last year a new Educationally Subnormal school has been built in Nile St., Hoxton called John Dawson.

This school replaced three smaller E.S.N. schools in the area, but at the moment it seems that the people of Hackney are not getting anything like value for money for the £ million pounds that was spent on building it.

STAFF REDUCED TO EIGHT

The I.L.E.A. originally intended the new school to cater for two hundred children, although the teachers at John Dawson felt from the outset that this was never a realistic estimate. At the beginning of the Autumn term there will be only about one hundred children attending John Dawson. As a result the fourteen full-time staff will have to be reduced to eight over the next few months. The displaced staff will be transferred to other special schools in the area. But because of the fall in the number of children being referred to E.S.N. schools, they may find themselves being used to teach children with other handicaps. Clearly to put an E.S.N. teacher in front of a class of deaf or blind children makes a mockery of the specialised training required for this type of work.

SERIOUS MISTAKES

There have also been a number of other serious mistakes in design and planning of facilities in the new school. There is a great lack of good sports facilities at John Dawson, especially for older boys. Most of the school's intake of teenage boys came from the Seguin school where ironically there were quite adequate sports facilities. Parts of the play-area for autistic children are to be grassed over. However until this has been done these parts are just patches of bare earth which have thousands of tiny fragments of glass embedded in them. To make play-times even more hazardous for these kids the busy City Road which bounds one side of the playground has not been properly fenced off.

BAD DEAL FOR BACKWARD KIDS (CONT... from page 4)

E.S.N. schools have special conditions and facilities tailored to get the greatest potential out of backward kids. Because of the vital role they can play in this, it is essential that we know the reasons why places aren't being filled at schools such as John Dawson.

Looking at two other Hackney E.S.N. schools the story is very much the same. At Downsview school in Clapton there are a hundred and sixty places available with only a hundred and forty seven being filled. At Horizon school there is a short-fall of fifty six on the school's capacity of one hundred and eighty.

DECLINE IN POPULATION

One headmistress of an E.S.N. school in Hackney has said that one of the reasons for the unfilled places is the general decline in the school population in Inner London. Heads are often unwilling to refer their kids for special education for fear of further reducing the numbers and thus inviting cuts in staff.

Another reason is the attitude of the I.L.E.A. towards E.S.N. schools. There has been a shift in their philosophy away from the provision of special schools for backward children. They argue that in most cases it is best to provide the special help and facilities these children need within the normal primary and secondary schools. However there is much evidence to show that the I.L.E.A. are being very successful in discouraging referrals to E.S.N. schools but far less so in ensuring that comparable facilities and assistance in the ordinary schools.

LARGE CUTS

E.S.N. schools are very much more expensive to build and run than other schools. Thus it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the I.L.E.A. reversal of policy on E.S.N. education an expedient justification for implementing large cuts in the Education budget. But one would have thought that even the compromising Labour G.L.C. could see the madness in allowing an almost new E.S.N. school like John Dawson to be used at only about half it's potential.



BROADWAY MARKET ISN'T A SINKING SHIP - IT'S A SUBMARINE

The hole in the ground opposite Brougham road and Brook road provides a sight that is depressingly familiar to the council tenants and squatters on the Broadway Market area; nine months the houses and other selected sites in the area were pulled down to make way for Phase I of the GLC's Broadway Market ReDevelopment scheme. Since then they have remained constant reminders of the GLC's lack of action on the scheme and becoming increasing health hazards as more and more rubbish piles up on them. Fed up with having to look at this eyesore day after day, squatters living in the area decided to act over the Bank holiday weekend. A lot of people felt that although they couldn't build houses there, the space would be considerably more pleasant and useful as an open space than in its present state. It turned out, as the work progressed, that many other people felt the same, including kids in the area who heard that it might be used as a playground. So there was loads of help and enthusiasm for the job of clearing the tons of rubbish and broken glass that littered the site, and rebuilding the corrugated iron on

corrugated iron as a fence for the backs of two council houses exposed by the space being opened.

On Monday the work was finished and although there was some feeling that there should have been some organised plans as to the use of the site to present to the Council, most people thought that the GLC would leave the site, while more people in the area were consulted about what they wanted it used for. However . . .

THE COUNCIL

Just after the work had started on Sunday, a Housing Patrol Van came by to find out what was going on. When they saw what we were doing, the two council workers were very friendly and wished us luck. Their bosses, however, thought differently. On Tuesday, a GLC van came by to tidy up the site again, proof to the few who needed it that the GLC may not be very good at building houses, but they act quickly enough to stop people taking an initiative of their own.

In response to this a petition was quickly organised which collected a gratifying 600 signatures from both tenants and squatters calling on the GLC to let the area be used as an adventure playground or open space instead of the eyesore and health hazard that it had become.

Other people also rang up the GLC to complain and ask that the huge piles of collected rubbish be taken away. This concession was granted surprisingly quickly, and the GLC van arrived on Sunday van arrived on the next Sunday. Many tenants in the area were willing to sign the petition but not to get involved any further by coming to a meeting to decide the future of the site. Not surprisingly, the feeling amongst a lot of them, was that they weren't going to bother with something that would only be around temporarily.

The meeting came up with a concrete proposal to present to the GLC, along with a petition that a summer playscheme be set up there. People said that they would contact various sources for money and equipment. Negotiations are still going on, and there is predictably no reply as yet from the GLC to the petition and letter. Watch this space. . .



SHALL I SEE ?

When you've finished reading this copy of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS, don't just throw it away - keep it and all your other old newspapers and take them to the Research into Child Blindness yard in Drysdale Street (just off Hoxton Street). There they'll give you Green Shield Stamps for all your old paper (in bags or bundles please) at the rate of 2 per pound weight. If you can cram the boot of an average car you'll get about 500 stamps. The paper is recycled, and the money they get for it goes to help research into the causes of child blindness. Everybody benefits!

Remember - SAVE IT!



HIGHWAY ROBBER

L.T. says 'Stand'

On 20th June, bus fares went up AGAIN, this time by an amazing 26%. This is the third increase in less than eighteen months and means that fares are now TWICE what they were 2 years ago. And now, to add insult to injury, London Transport propose to make CUTS in services, so that you will be paying MORE each time you get on a bus, and they will come LESS often.

Already 3 buses in every 20 do not run as the timetable says they should. LT now proposes that these should be struck from the timetable as though they never existed, as they refuse now to take on any more staff to operate them. This is despite the fact that the staff level is some 4000 DOWN on the full complement - AND that they have a waiting list of 2500 people wanting jobs on the buses. (And with 1½ million out of work at the moment, it wouldn't be too difficult for them to find the extra 1500.)

So, not only are you paying more you're paying more for the fine privilege of waiting longer. How far are the cuts going? London Transport are not saying, but by refusing to recruit any more staff they are simply introducing what they call Primary and Secondary Schedules, which means that they will run a skeleton Primary schedule, and if they've got the staff - though of course they're refusing to recruit any more - then they'll graciously throw in a few extra buses. This they will call a Secondary schedule, which will of course vary from day to day. Result - you won't know whether the bus you caught yesterday will be running today or not - CHAOS!

And, instead of waiting ten minutes, you will have to wait 20, and if one crew doesn't turn up (because of flu or something like that) then you'll have to wait 40 minutes. COMPLETE CHAOS!

These new schedules are to start at Stamford Hill, Wood Green and Clapton garages in July, and Walthamstow and Dalston garages in October; so if your bus runs from one of these garages then you can expect an even worse service than you get today - if that's possible.

Some bus crews are more than a little worried by the new schedules. Willesden Garage struck in May, just before the new schedules went into operation there, issuing a statement saying:

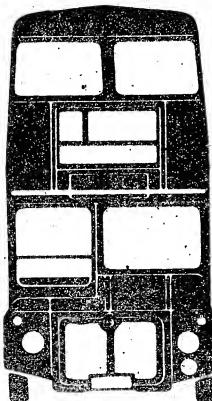
The Board has tried a crafty one to force their scheme on us and you. The changes affect 9 garages out of 68 at present. Another 21 garages will be involved in 2 batches over

the next 6 months. When the Board made its proposals to a Conference of delegates from garages it never told them which ones were to be affected.

Then when it got agreement, it trotted out its cuts and the names of the garages to be affected. The Board now claims that it is a "democratic" decision binding on all and seek to use one garage against another.

You, the public, know how over the years the services are getting worse and ever more costly. Hundreds of buses have been lying up in garages waiting for spare parts and repairs when they should be on the road taking people to wherever they want to go.

We, the bus workers, want to give the public a good, reliable service. We do a hard, but essential job often starting work at 5.00am often doing "spreadovers" of 12 hours and often finishing at 1.30 am. Our homes and family life get disrupted. YOU CAN HELP TO CHANGE THIS.



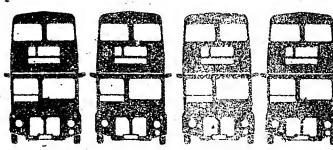
Has the Labour GLC forgotten its election pledge of 1972, when it proudly proclaimed that it would hold down fares of London Transport for a year, and then begin to reduce them to nothing over a period of years? They said then - quite rightly - that it would be cheaper and more socially just to run the service free!

Waltham Forest Trades Council have made a brave effort to fight the fare increases. "Remember that a fare rise is a wage cut you queue up for" they wrote, and ran a campaign to try and persuade the travelling public to offer the old fare, and refuse to pay the increase. Many bus workers supported them, but other organised labour refused to follow their courageous lead. Why didn't Hackney Trades Council pass a similar resolution? The local branch of FTAT, the furniture workers union, called on them in April to initiate "new forms of passenger resistance", to support working people "even to the extent of passengers withholding the increase and tendering only the previous fare."

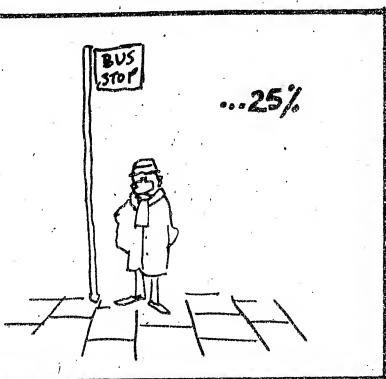
PEOPLE FORCE FARE CUTS

The only way that people will be able to fight fare rises and the cuts in public transport is for passengers and crews to work together. This has been done successfully in Italy: in Turin a union official issued passes enabling people to travel at the old fare. The idea spread, and after a few months of trade

Y ON THE BUSES



and Deliver'



union activity bus companies all over Italy were forced to reduce fares. Only when all bus crews can be persuaded that bus cuts and fare rises are against their interests and that they should continue to accept the old fares, will the transport authorities be forced to give people a decent service.

Everyone has their own horrific stories about how long they have had to wait for a 30, or a 38, or a 73. Everyone can tell of the crowds waiting forlornly at bus stops - Hackney People's Press has counted 60 or 70 people at one stop in Stoke Newington Road - in the morning rush hours, which lead inevitably to huge rushes onto the buses when they eventually arrive. The conductor just says: "First three only" and the three most nimble passengers are past him in a flash. London Transport cannot hope to solve these sort of problems by putting up pathetic posters asking you to "Please form a queue" (printed, incidentally, in French, German, Spanish and Italian, as though the rush and crush is caused by the hordes of foreign tourists who flock to Hackney at this time of year). LT cannot hope to run an efficient bus service - one, for example, which will allow the people of Hackney Wick to get home late at night, rather than stopping all the buses at Well Street - when it consistently refuses to take on enough crews.

LT's "answer" to the shortage seems to be two-fold. Firstly, there's a plague of inspectors (to catch those evil fare dodgers who are, of course, solely responsible

Jack Aldrich of the TGWU at Walthamstow Garage says:

Now you have had the third fare increase and also a 15% cut on buses are you, Hackney's travelling public, satisfied by the service you are given? Do you wait longer now for the 253s, the 106s and the other buses which run through the Borough? Are you like the average passenger who sees "LT as a red bus to a bull?" We expect that you are fuming at the 26% increase on fares and also with the longer waits anticipated we expect you will be swearing at the cuts in services. It is a pity that Hackney Trades Council and the organised Labour didn't join Waltham Forest Trades Council in their Campaign of protest and action to combat these vicious increases. Let's only hope that you are getting ready for the next dose of increases. Hackney passengers, with no Underground service, are more seriously affected by bus fare increases, whether going to industry, shopping, football etc. Also although LT has 4000 vacancies and Hackney is suffering severely from unemployment, the answer they give of staff shortages should be that there is no recruitment. This is ridiculous to the extreme because many workers in the Borough could obviously do this type of job.

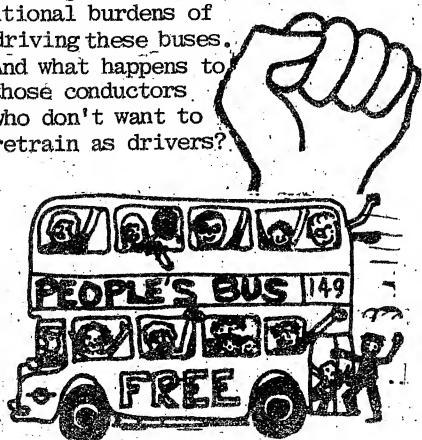
Underground fares go up on 17 July and could possibly have a serious effect on Hackney workers who have to travel a distance because there is no work locally. British Rail fares have been frozen for a year. We urgently suggest that all parties should be protesting and acting about these increases together with the bus fare increases before they come into being. Action not words are required.

Remember a fare rise is a wage cut you have to queue up for!

for LT's deficit. Inspectors come equipped with two-way radios and nice little cars, ready to turn your bus round miles before you reach your destination.

Secondly, there's OMO. No, it's not soap powder - to LT it means "One Man (women please note) Operation". To working people it means delays at the stops while everybody fumbles with their change and, of course, it means fewer jobs on the buses. LT intends to go over to 100% OMO on the buses (and eventually on the Tubes, too) and one can't help wondering if the drivers don't get fed up with the additional burdens of driving these buses.

And what happens to those conductors who don't want to retrain as drivers?



So what can mere passengers do to persuade planners of our transport to give us a regular and cheap (free?) service? Well, the next time you wait half an hour for that "every ten minutes" bus, how about asking your fellow passengers to sign a letter of complaint and then send it to the London Transport Executive's Chairman, Kenneth Robinson at 55 Broadway, London SW1H OBD. After he's dug his way out of the mountain of letters he's received, then he might just do something about your bus. But don't forget, while you're fuming (quite justifiably) that the bus crews are probably just as sick of the cuts as you are - passengers and crew have a common interest in improving the service.

What else can you do?

Pressure your union to petition the Trades Council to follow Waltham's brave lead.

Individual unions and tenants' associations should make it clear that no prospective MP or GLC Councillor can expect to get elected unless fare increases are stopped and cuts in services are restored.

law centre open

Hackney's new law centre has opened though few would know it and is to be found on the corner of Paragon Road and Mare Street just by the central library. Staffed by full-time solicitors they will act on behalf of individuals and local groups, dealing particularly with the sort of problem that private solicitors won't touch with a bargepole because there's no money in it

Individual problems

Find out first if you have a legal problem by going to a legal advice session (see Info page), or call in to the advice bureau in Mare St. They will make an appointment for you at the law centre. Like private solicitors the law centre will write letters represent you in court and act in other ways on your behalf. Problems where they can help:-

Housing Landlord and tenant disputes, security, harassment, fair rents and appeals, forcing landlords to do repairs.

Employment unfair dismissal, redundancy etc
- and many other problems except marriage and divorce. In this case they will refer you to a private solicitor (except in an emergency such as a battered wife). All advice and letters are free, but you can expect to have to pay something towards the cost of further action except in the case of certain housing problems. They will also advise and help you to take your own legal action where this is possible.



United by a problem?

The Law Centre will advise, help and act on behalf of a group of people with a common problem, and this applies to both existing organised groups such as Tenants' Associations and also to groups of people brought together only because of the threat of compulsory purchase for example. There are many cases often to do with housing where united tenants or residents have taken legal action and won. Here in Hackney the law centre is helping in two such cases-

On the Kingsmead Estate the tenants' association is planning to use the Public Health laws to force the GLC to do repairs. And in a small group of streets off Shacklewell Lane which have been compulsorily purchased by the council, the law centre is helping the residents to get fair compensation for the loss of their homes.

Hackney Law Centre
236-8 Mare Street, E8
Tel: 986 8441

Solicitors: William Ackroyd
and Ruth Holt.

Difficulties claiming dole?

FIGHT BACK WITH THE CLAIMANTS UNION!

We are a militant organization fighting to better our standards and the quality of living in much the same way as workers fight for better pay and conditions. However we have no paid officials relying entirely on our own efforts as grass roots members.

We are in daily conflict with an enormous state bureaucracy, they turn claiming a fee quid into a major ordeal. This is done by underhand intimidation, making you wait for hours in one office, then sending you off to another miles away, and also by suppressing information as to exactly what your rights are.

That's why we belong to a union of claimants, so we can fight each other's claims. Come along to our meetings and join us in the fight for justice.

NORTH LONDON(HACKNEY) CLAIMANTS UNION: contact CENTERPRISE OR PHONE 249 6474

BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR VIETNAM

Hackney Appeal

Over 20 million bombs were dropped on Vietnam by the USA during the war. The bombing was indiscriminate: hospitals, schools, churches and whole villages were destroyed. Toxic chemicals were sprayed on crops and defoliants on the trees. The war is over now, but its legacy of destruction remains.

The British Hospital for Vietnam Committee has been set up to raise £800,000 in order to rebuild a hospital at Ky Anh, in the province of Ha Tinh. This was one of the most badly damaged areas of Vietnam, and the hospital itself was bombed on 17 separate occasions. It was totally destroyed three times, and the Vietnamese rebuilt it twice, but the third time the medical staff were forced to move underground and carry on their work in dug-out pits and trenches. Although the hospital is now above ground, it consists of temporary mud and thatch shelters. Our aim is to replace these

with a modern, prefabricated hospital, which will serve not only as an in-patient general hospital but also as a base from which teams of health workers can travel to outlying villages.

The Hackney community played a leading part in the anti-war campaign, and an Appeal for the hospital is now being started in Hackney. There will be a public meeting in Hackney Town Hall on Tuesday July 13th at 7.30p.m. Dr. Joan McMichael, an expert on health care in Vietnam, will talk about the aftermath of war and the problems of reconstruction. Churches, trade unions, community groups etc. have been invited, and all members of the public are welcome.

The Vietnamese have suffered a lifetime of war. They now face another lifetime of reconstruction. The Ky Anh Hospital will be a lasting contribution from the people of this country to a country that has at last found peace.

HEALTH : CUTBACKS and CLOSURES

The health of Hackney's population is poor when compared to the national average and the rest of London. This is well known and, as expected, goes hand in hand with other features of deprivation. The infant mortality rate, which is generally considered the most sensitive index of health, is significantly higher, tuberculosis notifications are twice the national average and the proportion of registered handicapped persons is 50% above the GLC average. This level of deprivation illustrates not only the inadequacy of the local health services but also the lack of other social provisions, such as good housing, which are essential for a healthy population.

The health services are divided into three parts: the general practitioner and community services (including health visitors and district nurses), the 'acute' hospital services (general medicine and surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, paediatrics), and the 'non-acute' services (maternity, geriatric, mental illness and handicap). It is the first of these which provides the backbone of the service, and although there are a reasonable number of GPs in the district, very many of them still work alone and from inadequate premises. More significantly, there is a severe shortage of health visitors and district nurses - in 1975 only one third of the required number - and this has prevented the formation of primary care teams in which the workers in the field are integrated to provide a more comprehensive and efficient service.

Obviously there is the need for a great improvement of the services in Hackney, but how is progress to be made? The present government policy of cuts in public spending is implemented on a local level by the Area Health Authority (AHA), which is responsible to the DHSS. The AHA published a document in February in which it outlined its plans for the district over the next five years. While admitting that the area of primary care is of the utmost importance, it offers no concrete proposals to remedy the present situation. An additional sum of £210,000 is allocated to cover all the community services, but this would not even pay for the nursing staff needed let alone anything else. And of course, unless a good deal more is spent on improving facilities and working conditions it will be impossible to recruit the staff.

accepts the national norms for beds/1000 population for these groups despite all the evidence that due to social deprivation in the area the needs are in fact much greater. For example, there are now no psychogeriatric beds in the district and in the plan the AHA recommends a figure of 81 beds to be achieved by 1981. A recent survey shows there to be 160 psychogeriatric patients occupying beds now in 'acute' and other hospitals - twice the number of beds hoped to be achieved in five years.

The government cuts in spending are already biting deep into Hackney's overstretched services. The 1½% cut in revenue for this year means that services will be curtailed even more. There is a standstill in the replacement of staff as they leave, and each job has to be individually approved before being advertised. Despite the assurances of the AHA that there will be no redundancies, staffing levels are being deliberately allowed to fall - which means a worse service for the public.

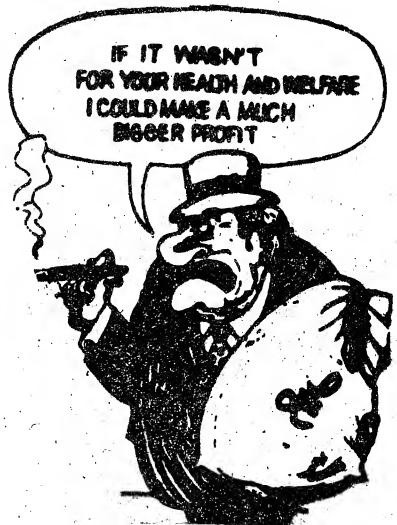
Looked at broadly the needs of the area are obvious enough - a great improvement in community services and provision for old people, the handicapped and the mentally ill. It is necessary for the people of the Borough to become actively involved in deciding what their priorities are and how they should be achieved. The Unions in the health service have given a lead on this and it is important for other unions and popular organisations within the borough to become involved. The Community Health Council (at Shoreditch Health Centre) can also be used as a means of communication with the AHA.

WARNING HM GOVERNMENT CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

The 'acute' services are provided by several hospitals: St. Bartholomew's, Hackney, St. Leonards, Metropolitan and Queen Elizabeths for Children. Only about 1/3 of the beds at St. Bartholomew's are in district use and the other hospitals are all old and despite the adequate number of beds the facilities are not good. As for the 'non-acute' services, Hackney has a higher than average proportion of old, handicapped and mentally ill people, and the provision for them is in some cases non-existent. There are no beds at all for mentally disturbed old people and no day-care places for old people at all.

The plan for the 'acute' services, dominant in the AHA proposals, envisages a new hospital on the Eastern site sharing the load with St. Bartholomew's. St. Leonards, Hackney and the Metropolitan would close or change to long-stay hospitals. However, resistance to the loss of St. Leonards by the staff and the Community Health Council, and uncertainty about their plans by the AHA make it very unlikely that there will be any change there for some years. The 'non-acute' services, psychiatry, geriatrics, mental handicap and maternity get scant mention in the AHA's proposals. The AHA

IF IT WASN'T
FOR YOUR HEALTH AND WELFARE
I COULD MAKE A MUCH
BIGGER PROFIT



Probe into Hackney Welfare.

Hackney Social Services have set up a working-party to investigate ways of improving efficiency in this department. Last month I spoke to a social worker based in the Hoxton Area office who was serving on this working party.

He said that case-loads were too heavy. In his own office, evidence for this was the number of case-files which lay neglected on social workers desks for too long.

There are four Area Offices in Hackney. These are, logically enough, the South-West (in Hoxton), the South-East, the North East and the North West Offices. However, if the designations of the offices are logical, in certain cases the locations of them are positively eccentric. For instance the North-West Area Office isn't even in the area which it is supposed to serve.

Proposed boundary changes in the areas covered by the four offices will mean that the Hoxton office will have to take an extra 15,000 population into its area. There will be no extra social workers.

Looking at figures recently published in "Community Care" (an internal Social Services magazine), there seems to be a strong case for the assertion that Hackney has too many administrators and not enough basic case-workers in the Department. The ratio of basic social workers to managerial and supervisory staff in Hackney is 56 to 27. By contrast in Camden there are 84 social workers and only 8 administrators and in Islington the ratio is 79 to 21.

The same article also gave evidence that Hackney is severely lacking in fully trained and qualified social workers. In Hackney only 29% of the social work staff are qualified, again in contrast to Camden's 74% and Islington's 57%. One can't help but draw the conclusion from these figures that either the Social Services set-up in Hackney is not able to attract qualified social workers or the council is not willing to pay out the extra money for qualified staff.

While the Council continues to slavishly follow Central Government's "no growth" dictum, social service provision in Hackney is bound to deteriorate rather than improve. It is worth saying though that in many cases, Hackney Council doesn't have much choice in the matter. The present dilemma over the 60p-a-week rent rises is a good example of the "heads they win, tails we lose" situation which Labour Councils find themselves in their dealings with Central Government.

information

CHILDREN



SUMMER PLAYSCHMES

Many play schemes have been organised throughout the Borough for this summer.

It is not possible to give full details of each scheme so for further details ring the contact number listed or speak to the Hackney Play Association c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E.8, (tele. 254 9145).

Beatty Road Nursery Centre, 162 Albion Road, N16. Contact Jane or Myrla, tel 254 7309

Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. Contact Oliver Flavin, tel 254 9632

De Beauvoir Community Association, De Beauvoir Association and the Rose Lipman Library. Contact Pam Mahon, tel 249 3669 or Guy Gervis, tel 254 8500.

Finsbury Park Methodists. Contact Ian Coverdale, 132 Hermitage Road N.4.

Friends Anonymous Service. Contact Rev. Gualter de Mello, tel 986 2233.

Hindle House Community Association, Arcola St., E.8. Contact Kathy Jenkins, 6 Hindle House, E.8.

Hoxton Hall, 128a Hoxton St., N1. Contact Jan Evans, tel 739 5431

Kingsmead Estate, Marsh Hill, E9. Contact Judy, tel 985 3987.

Manor Road Reform Church, N16. Contact Rev David Morgan, tel 800 3770.

Nile Street Project, Vestry St., N1. Contact Mr Carter at the centre.

Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Association. Tel 254 3294 between 12 and 3pm.

Stoke Newington East Community Association. Contact Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke Newington High St., N16.

Toc H, Prideaux House, Church Crescent, E9. Tel 985 4901.

Wigan House Estate Community Hall, Warwick Grove, E5. Contact Joy Trotman, 111 Wigan House, E5.

Wordsworth Road Playscheme. Contact Marie Lewis, tel 249 0670 during the day or Jon Webber, tel 249 4380 after 6 pm.

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES COMMITTEE
136 Kingsland High St., E8 2NS. Tel 254 9145.

Information and support for nurseries and playgroups and for parents with children below school age. Co-ordinators Madge Harte and Gillian Wilding.

ADVICE

CENTERPRISE ADVICE CENTRE

Advice on housing problems, legal problems, welfare and social security. Thursdays 6.30-7.30 pm at Centerprise.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N16. Gives advice on tenants' problems especially harrassment and repairs. Fridays 7-8 pm.

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU AND LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare St., E8. Tel 986 8441. Open Monday to Friday 10 am-5 pm (7.30 pm Thursdays). Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment.

MANOR ROAD COUNSELLING CENTRE

Free expert advice on legal, financial, family/welfare and other matters. Information and help on housing, social security and personal problems. Wednesdays 7-8.30 pm in the Church Hall, Manor Road, N16. (By Manor Road/Lordship Road traffic lights- 106 bus.

THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel 254 9632, before 6 pm on Tuesdays to Fridays only.

Learn to print poster, T-shirts etc at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only. Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 1 pm to 8 pm.

HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Takes up criticism of local health services.

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E.2 739 6308. Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Meeting Tuesday 20 July 6.30pm.

information

GROUPS

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E.8.
Advice service on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30- 4.00pm.
Tea Bar on Mon-Fri. 10.30-4.00pm.

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational Hall, E.5.

Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm.

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays).
Tel 985 8566

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E.8
Provides a 24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

SOUTH STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

54 Harcombe Road, N.16
Contact them if you are concerned about poor transport, badly planned redevelopment, empty houses and nowhere for kids to play.

EAST STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke Newington High Street, N.16.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION

Meet at 177 Glenarm Road, E5.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

Information from 22 Stoke Newington Common, N16.

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Hackney South and Central YS.
Meet every Wednesday at 8 pm at 34 Dalston Lane, E8.
Hackney North YS
Meet every other Monday at 8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16.
Contact Mark Douglas, 103 Osbaldestone Road, N.16
All welcome.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Hackney Community Relations Council, Mare St., E8.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one-parent families.
Meets every Monday at 34 Dalston Lane E8 at 7.30. Further info from Gloria Sullivan, tel 254 8405. Dance and bottle party on Saturday 7 August. Gooch House, Kenninghall Rd., E.5 7-11 pm. Tickets 50p, in advance from Gloria Sullivan. Bring bottle!

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N.5.
Tel 254 1620

FOOD



DOWN TO EARTH

Durham Row, Stepney Green, E1.
Tel 790 3512.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs, etc.
Open Mon-Sat 9 am to 6 pm.

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
254 9632

Bookshop and office hours:
Monday 1pm to 6.30 pm
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Coffeebar and meeting rooms hours:
Monday 1pm to 6.30pm
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 10pm

Facilities

Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters and duplicator for people to use free: ask in General Office.

Advice Centre

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30 to 7.30pm.
Contact Jon Webber or phone 254 9634.

Reading Centre

For adults who find it hard to read or write.
Contact Sue Shrapnel or phone 254 9635.



Publishing Project

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or phone 254 9634.

Youth project

Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups, etc.
Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.
Contact Oliver Flavin.

CENTERPRISE is running the bookshop at the "Remember 1926" exhibition at Covent Garden Flower Market, Russell Street, WC2, from July 3rd to 31st.

WOMEN



HACKNEY WOMEN'S AID

Details from 254 7504

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL

WOMENS SUB-COMMITTEE

Meets second Tuesday of every month at Centerprise. All welcome.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Fortnightly meetings at 42 Kynaston Road, N16. Tel 249 1652.

WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER CAMPAIGN

National Co-ordinating Group
Meeting July 4 (Sunday) 12.30 to 5 pm, Birmingham. For details of venue contact Liz Hambleton 49 Lowther Hill, SE23 1PZ, tel 690 5518.

All Charter groups and organisations with the Charter adopted as policy are invited to send 2 voting representatives to the first National Co-ordinating Group meeting.

MEETINGS

SOCIALIST EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Meeting about democracy in schools open to all interested in education, Tuesday 6 July at Centerprise, 8pm.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY LINK-UP

Open meeting. Monday 5 July 8 pm at Stamford Hill Library, N16. Steve Scott on "Funding of Community Groups."

High noon in Hackneyville

Highlights of the Hackney marsh Fun festival on the 10&11th of July, include Johnny Concho's Remuda Wild West show on Sunday, a donkey derby also on Sunday, boat rides on the river Lea on both days and a wide selection of Live music; from Country and Western and New Orleans Jazz to Rock&Roll and Steel bands.

Ray Adams and Ronnie Howe will be running 280 miles to raise money for this years festival. They'll be running from Suresnes near Paris, starting on the fifth and hope to reach the Marsh by 3pm on the tenth to open the festival.

The Council has now granted to a group of local organizations including the festival committee, the lease of the old library in Brooksby's walk to use as a community centre.

The Festival Committee hopes that by helping to organize events there; from theatre, music hall and dances to bingo, playgroups and over sixties clubs, we can continue



the spirit of the festival throughout the year. As a consequence the aim of the festival is to help revive the traditional East End community spirit, encouraging people of all backgrounds to help and understand each other better.

Out of a surplus of about one thousand pounds from last years festival, Six hundred has been earmarked for the community project in the Library. The Council has granted £5,000 to cover heating lighting and rates, but clearly more money is needed to pay for Furniture, play equipment and kitchen equipment etc. We are appealing to Local industry and business for support but also to the whole community, so please send your donations to the Hackney Marsh Fun Festival

(marked "Homerton Community Project") to PO Box 70 London E5 0TH. They will be acknowledged on a special wall in the foyer devoted to Friends of the Homerton Project.

SATURDAY 10TH JULY 3.00

SUNDAY 11TH 10.30

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is produced by a group of people living in the borough for the people of Hackney. We still need YOUR interest and YOUR enthusiasm to make this truly YOUR paper. If you would like to help us in any way - and we need your help to do everything: write articles, type them out, do the design and layout, take photographs, distribute and sell the finished copies - then come to our next meeting:

CENTERPRISE Thursday 15 July
7.30pm

when we will be planning the next issue. Or leave us a note in Centerprise, or ring Charles Foster, 249 0311, for further details.

Hackney People's Press is available from the following bookshops and newsagents around Hackney.

Centerprise Bookshop
136 Kingsland High Street, E.8
170 Stoke Newington Church Street,
N.16
7 Albion Parade, Albion Road, N.16

67 Nevill Road, N.16
230 Graham Road, E.8
246 Morning Lane, E.8
54 Evering Road, N.16

If your local newsagent would like to sell HPP (trade terms available) then please contact us. We also sell copies through groups in the borough, and on various housing estates. If your group would like to take copies, or you want to sell some copies in the area where you live, then don't hesitate to contact us! All we ask is but a few minutes of your time

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